

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Currently Amended) A Method of managing incoming calls and/or messages in a communications system comprising the steps of:

upon receipt of a call and/or message checking if a pre-defined availability status allocated to a predetermined recipient of the call and/or message is activated;

upon activation of a pre-defined availability status applying a pre-defined filter rule to the call and/or message in accordance with the activated availability status; and

executing a call and/or message handling action associated with the activated availability status;

wherein the availability status is selectable for activation by the predetermined recipient of the call and/or message.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A Method as set forth in claim 21, wherein only one availability status is activated at a time.

4. (Original) A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein any call and/or message is signalised and routed to the recipient by applying the filter rule relating to an availability status in which the recipient is prepared to receive calls and/or messages.

5. (Original) A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein only calls and/or messages originating from a pre-determined set of callers and/or senders are signalised and forwarded to the recipient by applying the filter rule.

6. (Original) A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein any call and/or message is forwarded to an other pre-defined recipient by executing the call and/or message handling

action.

7. (Original) A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the call and/or message handling action comprises notifying the recipient of attempted communication by means of a message directed to a selected communication device allocated to the recipient.

8. (Original) A Method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the call and/or message is routed to a destination associated with an entry in a personal scheduler of the recipient.

9. (Currently Amended) An Apparatus for managing incoming calls and/or messages in a communications system comprising:

means for checking, upon receipt of a call and/or message, if a pre-defined availability status allocated to a predetermined recipient of the call and/or message is activated;

means for applying, upon activation of a pre-defined availability status, a pre-defined filter rule to the call and/or message in accordance with the activated availability status; and

means for executing a call and/or message handling action associated with the activated availability status;

wherein the availability status is selectable for activation by the predetermined recipient of the call and/or message.

10. (Currently Amended) A Computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising:

computer readable means for causing a computer to check, upon receipt of a call and/or message, if a pre-defined availability status allocated to a predetermined recipient of the call and/or message is activated;

computer readable means for causing the computer to apply, upon activation of a pre-defined availability status, a pre-defined filter rule to the call and/or message in accordance with the activated availability status; and

computer readable means for causing the computer to execute a call and/or message handling action associated with the activated availability status;

wherein the availability status is selectable for activation by the predetermined recipient of the call and/or message.